

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended. A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,
- b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,
- c. providing a third thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,
- d. forming said first thermoplastic polymer into a first continuous filament precursor web,
- e. forming said second thermoplastic polymer into a second continuous filament precursor web,
- f. forming said third thermoplastic polymer into a third continuous filament precursor web, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is positioned between said first and second continuous filament precursor webs, and
- g. consolidating said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web acts as a bonding agent to facilitate said consolidating step.

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

Claim 2 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said first thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene.

Claim 3 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 4 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second third thermoplastic polymer is a polypropylene blend.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said consolidation of said first, second, and third precursor webs is a calendaring process, wherein said calendaring process comprises a heated embossed roll and a heated smooth roll; wherein said heated embossed roll is of a higher temperature than said heated smooth roll.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 6, wherein said polyethylene first precursor web comprised polyethylene and is in direct contact with said smooth roll.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,
- b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,
- c. providing a third thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

- d. forming said first thermoplastic polymer into a first continuous filament precursor web,
- e. forming said second thermoplastic polymer into a second continuous filament precursor web,
- f. forming said third thermoplastic polymer into a third continuous filament precursor web,
- g. juxtaposing said first continuous filament precursor web in a face-to-face relationship with said third filament precursor web, and said second continuous filament precursor web in a face-to-face relationship with said third filament precursor web, and
- h. consolidating said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor web by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric, so that said third filament precursor web facilitates consolidation.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first polyolefin polymer,
- b. providing a second polyolefin polymer, wherein said second polyolefin polymer is dissimilar to said first polyolefin polymer,
- c. extruding said first and second polymers from separate orifices of the same spinneret;
- d. collecting said first and second polymers forming a first continuous filament precursor web,

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

- e. collecting said first and second polymers forming a second continuous filament precursor web, wherein said second continuous filament precursor web is formed directly onto the surface of said first continuous filament precursor web, and
- f. consolidating said first and said second continuous filament precursor webs by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric.

Claim 10 (withdrawn). A method for forming a nonwoven laminate fabric, comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,
- b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,
- c. extruding said first and second polymers from separate orifices of the same spinneret;
- d. collecting said first and second polymers forming a first continuous filament precursor web,
- e. collecting said first and second polymers forming a second continuous filament precursor web,
- f. juxtaposing said first continuous filament precursor web and said second continuous filament precursor web in face to face relationship, and
- g. consolidating said first and said second continuous filament precursor web by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric.

Application No. 10/797,400
Amendment dated February 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 29, 2005

Claim 11 (new). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric, comprising:
a first continuous filament precursor web formed from a first polymer;
a second continuous filament precursor web formed from a second thermoplastic polymer dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer; and
a third continuous filament precursor web formed from a third thermoplastic polymer dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is positioned between said first and second continuous filament precursor webs;
wherein said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs are consolidated by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web acts as a bonding agent to facilitate consolidation of said webs.

Claim 12 (new). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said first thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene.

Claim 13 (new). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 14 (new). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is a polypropylene blend.